

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art fails to show the combined teaching of "selecting at least one provisioned LSP terminating at the PE communications network node to be removed, then determining two PE communications network nodes corresponding to ends of the at least one selected LSP, then determining whether content is being conveyed via the at least one selected LSP in respect of at least one actively provisioned VPN service, then selectively issuing LSP decommissioning commands to the two PE communications network nodes corresponding to the ends of the at least one selected LSP when a determination is made that no content is being conveyed through the at least one selected LSP, and lastly excluding the PE communications network node from the group if all selected LSPs have been decommissioned".

The closest prior art made of record are Worster et al. (US 2002/0097732 A1) and Kim et al. (US 7266124 B1).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ABDULLAH RIYAMI whose telephone number is

Art Unit: 2616

(571)270-3119. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 8am-5pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy D. Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3155. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Abdullah Riyami/
Examiner, Art Unit 2616

/Huy D. Vu/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2616